

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 /071 W

----- 008618

R 071309Z AUG 76

FM AMCONSUL LYON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0938

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMCONSUL BORDEAUX

AMCONSUL NICE

AMCONSUL MARSEILLE

AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

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ATTN PARIS FOR COMMERCIAL COUNSELLOR BLOGETT AND LABOR

ATTACHE CONDON

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EINV, EIND, FR

SUBJECT: AMTEC LIQUIDATION

REF: PARIS 18807, 7/21/75 AND PARIS 12554, 4/29/76

1. AFTER CHARGE GAMMON'S LETTER OF AUGUST 5, 1976 TO INTERIOR MINISTRE
R

PONIATOWSKI REQUESTING INTERVENTION IN APPLYING A JUNE 17 COURT
INJUNCTION TO END THE OCCUPATION OF AMTEC'S PRODUCTION FACILITIES
BY FORMER WORKERS, LYON PREFECT OF POLICE ROGER CHAIX MOVED TO EFFECT
THEIR EXPULSION.

2. THE EXPULSION ACTION TOOK PLACE EARLY IN THE MORNING OF AUGUST 12
QUIETLY AND WITHOUT SHOW OF EXCESSIVE FORCE. THE POLICE SIMPLY
ASKED SOME 6 WORKERS PRESENT IN EACH PLANT TO LEAVE THE PREMISES

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AND THEY COMPLIED WITHOUT RESISTANCE.

3. INITIAL REACTION WAS LIGHT DUE TO VACATION TIME, ALTHOUGH THE COMMUNIST CONTROLLED UNION, THE C.G.T., IMMEDIATELY HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE CONDEMNING QUOTE AN ACTION BY POLICE ARMED WITH IRON BARS WHO STOMED THE GATES TO INVADE THE PLANT UNQUOTE. DURING THE DAY SMALL DISCUSSION GROUPS FORMED IN THE AREAS SURROUNDING THE PLANTS BUT NO INCIDENTS OCCURRED.

4. DURING THE PAST FEW WEEKS, VARIOUS PROTEST MEETINGS WERE ORGANIZED BY THE UNIONS AND BY FORMER AMTEC PERSONNEL TO PROTEST THE EXPULSION, ONE ATTENDED BY AS MANY AS 500 WORKERS. THE UNIONS HAVE THREATENED TO UNDERTAKE MOSTLY UNSPECIFIED ACTION, ALTHOUGH A LATE REPORT HAS IT THAT THE C.F.D.T. UNION HAS PROPOSED TO THE C.G.T. THAT THEY TEAM UP TO RE-OCCUPY AMTEC'S PLANTS.

COMMENT:

WHILE RE-OCCUPATION OF THE TWO PLANTS WOULD PERHAPS BE OF PSYCHOLOGICAL

SIGNIFICANCE TO UNIONS AND WORKERS, THE PRINCIPAL PURPOSE OF RECOVERING

\$3.5 MILLION OF NEARLY FINISHED MACHINE TOOLS HAS BEEN FULLY ACCOMPLISHED.

RE-OCCUPATION WOULD BE A HOLLOW VICTORY AND A MINOR NUISANCE TO THOSE WHO WISH TO CLOSE THE FINAL CHAPTER OF AMTEC'S LIQUIDATION. A POSITIVE NOTE IS THAT IT APPEARS THAT A LARGE MAJORITY OF AMTEC'S GENERALLY HIGHLY SKILLED WORKERS WILL SHORTLY BE ABSORBED IN OTHER METAL WORKING INDUSTRIES IN THE AREA. THE LYON BUSINESS COMMUNITY THROUGH ITS CHAMBER

OF COMMERCE IS PLAYING A MOST CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE IN THIS REGARD. VERSCHUUR

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